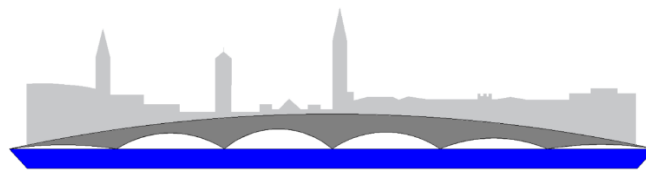


Newsletter

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



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WEXFORD TOWN AND ENVIRONS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 04 | April 2025



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

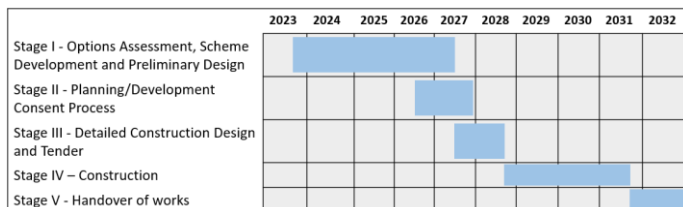
SCHEME BACKGROUND

Wexford Town is a medieval town constructed on the estuary of the River Slaney, on the west side of Wexford Harbour. The town is home to notable landmarks such as the historic Selskar Abbey, the National Opera House, and the Irish National Heritage Park. North of Wexford Bridge is the Wexford Railway Station on the Dublin-Rosslare rail line which was constructed in the 1870's and follows the coastline through the town.

In 2023, Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited (NOD) was commissioned to carry out the Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) by Wexford County Council (WCC), working in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

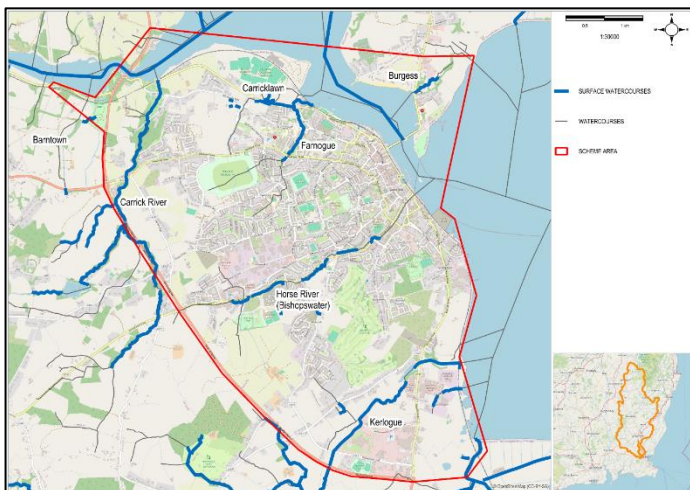
The overall objective of the project is the identification, design, and preparation of the FRS through planning, which is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of coastal and fluvial (river) flooding to the environs of Wexford Town to a defined Standard of Protection.

The project shall be carried out in five stages:



SCHEME AREA

The scheme area (red outline below) includes approx. 10km of coastline and 7 main watercourses. It comprises Wexford Town east of the N25, plus the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig Hotel, and Ferrybank area.



WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

The scheme is currently in Stage 1 – Option Assessment, Scheme development and Preliminary Design. Progress in the last three months includes the following.

Hydrological & Hydraulic Analysis:

Coastal modelling of sea levels and wave heights is ongoing, with simulations being carried out to estimate extreme water levels and potential flood extents.

Fluvial modelling of the main watercourses in Wexford Town is also in progress, with 1D/2D simulations currently underway to assess flood behaviour and interactions across the catchment.

Surveys:

The following surveys have been carried out:

- Short-term flow monitoring surveys have been completed. Long-term level monitoring surveys are ongoing.
- Topographic surveys and cross sections surveys have been completed.
- CCTV survey of culverts and Structural surveys of bridges and open channels in the scheme area have been carried out.
- A LiDAR survey of the shoreline has been completed
- Property Threshold surveys in Wexford Town have been completed. Measurements were taken externally at property entrances without entering any buildings.

Environmental Assessment:

The following surveys and assessments have been carried out to date:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Invasive species survey (Spring 2024)
- Wintering bird survey (Spring 2024, Winter 2025)
- Breeding Bird survey (Summer 2024)

Scoping for more targeted Environmental surveys is now underway.

Public Engagement:

The First Public Consultation Day (PCD) was held in December 2023 to seek people's initial views in relation to the key issues that the Scheme should address and gain additional information on any recent flood events.

A second PCD is expected take place in 2025, Q4 (Oct – Dec) once a draft Scheme has been developed. This will be to engage public opinion, and to identify any constraints.

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NEXT STEPS

The following additional surveys are planned for the next three months:

Topographic Surveys: Additional topographic surveys have been procured to capture features along the Horse River and at the Irish National Heritage Park

Environmental Surveys: Scoping for baseline surveys in 2025 is ongoing. Required surveys will include, invasive species assessments, benthic and fish surveys, and more targeted surveys in areas where works are expected to take place that will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

The hydraulic modelling of the scheme area is continuing and will produce new flood mapping for the scheme area during 2025. This will determine the areas to be protected by the scheme.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The data from the water level monitors and rain gauges installed by the OPW for the scheme can be viewed on the OPW Hydro-Data website at:

<https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/>

Historic 6" and 25" mapping of Ireland can be viewed on the Tailte Eireann (formerly Ordnance Survey of Ireland) platform:

[GeoHive Map Viewer](#)